For Immediate Release
Dec. 29, 2000
REVISED Jan. 18, 2001

Contact: Stacie Leatherman, (216) 421-7340, ext. 265
William Prenevost, (216) 421-7340, ext. 260

CMA Hosts Conference on the Portrayal of Minorities in the Visual Arts

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) will host a community conference, **Visions of Race**, on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Gartner Auditorium that will explore representations of African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans in popular culture. Noted art historians, artists, and community representatives will address the role of stereotypes in visual art and their impact on American values and perceptions. The event is *free* to the public, but registration is required at the CMA ticket center or by calling **1-888-CMA-0033** or (216) 421-7350. A $2 ticket handling fee applies to phone orders.

The conference focuses on the importance of the visual arts in forming perceptions of racial and ethnic groups in America. Stereotypes of people of color appear in many forms of popular culture and the fine arts. Cleveland's Chief Wahoo, the Aunt Jemima advertising image, and the taco-eating Chihuahua are examples of depictions of African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans which have become representative of these ethnic groups.

These featured speakers will give the following lectures at the conference:

- Reverend Marvin McMickle, Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Cleveland, *The Faces of Blackness: The History of Stereotyping Black Americans*
- W. Richard West, Director of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., *Images of Native Americans: Good-bye Columbus, Farewell, Tonto*
- Ramon A. Gutierrez, Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, San Diego, *Greasers, Banditos, Lovers and Immigrants: Representation of Latinos in Popular Culture*
- Robin D. G. Kelley, Professor of History and Africana Studies, New York University, *Coons with Attitude: Thoughts on Contemporary Representations of Blackness*
- Michael D. Harris, Professor, African and African-American Art, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Colored Pictures: Constructing and Contesting Racial Images*
- Fred Wilson, artist, New York, *Objects of Derision, Art of Revision, or Pappy Ain't Happy*

Panelists are:

- Carol Spindel, Professor, Department of English, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

- Juanita Helphrey, Minister and Team Leader for the Racial Justice Team, The Justice and Witness Ministeries, United Church of Christ, Cleveland
- Pablo Mitchell, Professor, Department of History, Oberlin College
- John L. Moore, Senior Visiting Artist/Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York
- Sandra R. Schwartz, Director, The National Conference for Community and Justice

Moderators:

- Adrienne L. Jones, CMA Trustee and Co-Chair of CMA's African-American Task Force; Conference Co-Chair
- Sharon F. Patton, John Gill Cowles Director, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College; Conference Co-Chair

CMA Director Katharine Lee Reid will serve as respondent.

The morning of the conference attendees may check in and have coffee beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Visions of Race is presented by CMA with additional support from The National Conference for Community and Justice.

For more information on the CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit **www.clevelandart.org**.

# # #